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Message Text

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12
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 AF-08
ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01
NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01
OES-06 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /124 W
---------- 093817
R 110316Z DEC 76
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1607
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USUN 6086

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, UNGA
SUBJ: UNGA DISARMAMENT: CONVENTINAL ARMS ISSUE

REFS: A. USUN 5961 (NOTAL; B. STATE 299919 (NOTAL)

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS REF B, DEL AGAIN RAISED QUESTION OF POSSIBLE STATEMENT ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS IN PLENARY WITH JAPANESE ALT REP SAWAI. SAWAI AID JAPANESE HAD CONSIDERED IDEA CAREFULLY AND COME TO CNCLUSION THAT ANY FURTHER STATEMENTS WOULD BE INADVISABLE SINCE THEY WOULD CREATE RISK OF REOPENING DEBATE AND PROMPTING OPPONENTS OF UNGA ACTION ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TO RENEW THEIR ATTACK. JAPANESE BELIEVE ISSUE SHOULD BE LEFT QUIET FOR TIME BEING, AND REVIVED, PERHAPS AT NEXT UNGA, FOLLOWING MORE CAREFUL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF TACTICAL APPROACH HAVING REASONABLE PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS.

2. SINGAPORE DELOFF TAN -- WHO PROVED TO BE AN ENERGETIC AND ARTICULATE SUPPORTER OF JAPANESE RES -- EXPRESSED SIMILAR VIEWS, ADDING THAT SINGAPORE WOULD NOT MAKE ANY
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FURTHER STATEMENTS THIS YEAR. ACUTELY DISAPPOINTED OVER

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RESULTS THIS YEAR, TAN SAID MAJOR REASON FOR RESOLUTION'S
FAILURE WAS WIDESPREAD SUSPICION THAT RES WAS A WESTERN
EFFORT TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM NUCLEAR ISSUES AND TO
IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFER OF ARMS WITHOUT DEALING
WITH QUESTION OF PRODUCTION. TAN SAID SINGAPORE WOULD
CONSIDER RAISING SUBJECT AGAIN NEXT YEAR, BUT THAT IT
WOULD DO SO WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH ANY WESTERN DELE-
GATION (INCLUDING JAPANESE) IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY SUGGES-
TION OF MANIPULATION. HE CONSIDERED IT ESSENTIAL FOR
ANY RESOLUTION ON THIS SUBJECT, IF IT SI T SUCCEED, TO
COME CLEARLY AND UNAMIBIGOUSLY FROM THE RANKS OF THE
NON-ALIGNED, PARTICULARLY THE SMALLER ONES.

3. NETHERLANDS DELOFF MEERBURG SAID DUTCH HAD CONSODERED
REOPENING ISSUE IN PLENARY BUT HAD DECIDED AGAINST IT
ON GROUNDS (A) THAT ANY FURTHER EFFORT WOULD FAIL, AND
(B) THAT ISSUE SHOULD BE LEFT DORMANT UNTIL EITHER THE NEXT
UNGA OR THE SPECIAL SESSION. HE SAID NETHERLANDS WOULD
NOT BE PREPARED TO MAKE STATEMENT IN PLENARY.

4. UK DELOFF KENYON HAS EXPRESSED VIEWS ALONG THE SAME
LINES, ADDING THAT UK BELIEVES IT ESSENTIAL FOR WESTERN
DELS TO GAIN CLEARER COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF PRECISE
OBJECTIVES OF POSSIBLE UNGA CTION IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS
TRANSFER FIELD.

5. COMMENT. IN VIEW OF UNIFORMLY NEGATIVE VIEWS ON
PART OF OTHER KEY DELEGATIONS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT
ANY FURTHER ACTION ON OUR PART WOULD BE HELPFUL. ON
THE CONTRARY, IT COULD PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF OPPONENTS
OF THE ISSUE, INCLUDING INDIA, NIGERIA, YUGOSLAVIA, AND
MEXICO, WHO SEEK TO PORTRAY IT AS A CONSPIRATORIAL
EFFORT BY THE US AND ITS ALLIES TO DEPRIVE DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES OF MEANS OF SELF-DEFENSE. IT SHOULD BE
POSSIBLE TO COUNTER THIS VIEW AS INCREASING NUMBERS OF
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE THE DANGERS POSED TO THEM
BY THE UNCONTROLLED GROWTH IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS.
THE 1976 UNGA, DESPITE THE PROCEDURAL ACTION TAKEN ON THE
JAPANESE RES, SHOWED GROWING CONCERN OVER THE PROBLEM;
THIS MAY LEAD TO IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR CONSTRUCTIVE
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ASSEMBLY CONSIDERATION OF THE PROBLEM IN FUTURE.
SCRANTON

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NNN

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